

Carlton Church: Australia in Doubt on Building Nuclear Plant

With the continuous trend of nuclear proliferation, the nuclear-free Australia is in critical dilemma on whether to start the industry in the country or not. On one end of the coin, the negative effects of nuclear generation will surely cause skepticisms and complaints. On the other side, nuclear fuel industry is worth exploring.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has been reserved when it comes to nuclear talks but he did admit that "Australia should 'look closely' at expanding its role in the global nuclear energy industry, including leasing fuel rods to other countries and then storing the waste afterwards".

South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill set up a royal commission in March to undertake an independent investigation into the state's participation in the nuclear fuel cycle.

Carlton Church International, non-profit organization campaigning against nuclear use, says there is no need for Australia to venture into nuclear turmoil as they already have an extensive, low cost coal and natural gas reserves. Other critics has also seconded this motion as it is known that even Turnbull has pointed out that the country has plentiful access to coal, gas, wind and solar sources.

During an interview, he also stated, "I'm not talking about the politics. We've got so much other affordable sources of energy, not just fossil fuel like coal and gas but also wind, solar. The ability to store energy is getting better all the time, and that's very important for intermittent sources of energy, particularly wind and solar. But playing that part in the nuclear fuel cycle I think is something that is worth looking at closely".

A survey was also conducted among random people and a lot of them have been reluctant about the nuclear issue. Some fear that the Fukushima Daichii Incident would happen, knowing the extent of the damage it has caused even to those living in Tokyo, Japan.

Another review also stated, "We only have to look at the Fukushima disaster in Japan to be reminded of the health, social and economic impacts of a nuclear accident, and to see that this is not a safe option for Australians."

According to further studies by analysts, 25 nuclear reactors can be built around Australia producing a third of the country's electricity by 2050. But it also found nuclear power would be much more expensive to produce than coal-fired power if a price was not put on carbon dioxide emissions.

Greenpeace dismissed nuclear power as “an expensive distraction from the real solutions to climate change, like solar and wind power”.

- See more at: [**Carlton Church International**](#)